

Braley Reacts to Introduction of Healthcare Reform Bill

Today, Rep. Braley announced that several Braley initiatives were included in the House health care reform legislation.

Tuesday July 14, 2009

Washington, DC - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) today commented on the introduction of comprehensive healthcare reform legislation in the US House:

"We urgently need to fix our broken healthcare system, and this bill takes some encouraging steps forward," Braley said. "It's good to see several initiatives I've been pushing for included in the reform bill.

"But I'm concerned that the bill does too little to address the broken Medicare reimbursement system. This system penalizes doctors and hospitals in states like Iowa who consistently rank at the top in quality of care and at the bottom in Medicare reimbursement rates.

"We have a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to transform our healthcare system and save billions of dollars by basing Medicare payments on the quality of care, not the quantity of services. This change needs to be a part of comprehensive healthcare reform, and I'm going to keep fighting for it."

Last month, Braley introduced the Medicare Payment Improvement Act (HR 2844), with Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) to outline this quality-based system. More information about this bill can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/kl6v9z>

Several Braley-led initiatives have been included in the healthcare reform bill. Further information on these initiatives follows.

BRALEY INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL:

Plain Language in Health Insurance: Sections of Braley's Plain Language in Health Insurance Act (HR 3051), introduced last month, are included in the healthcare reform bill. Specifically, these sections:

- Require the federal government and health insurers participating in a new federal health insurance exchange to write all plan documents; claims policies, practices, and amounts; financial disclosures; and other information in plain language.
- Require the website of the health insurance exchange be written in plain language.

For more information on the Plain Language in Health Insurance Act, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/mq294a>

Access to Frontline Health Providers: Sections of Braley's Access to Frontline Care Act (HR 2891), also introduced last month, are included in the healthcare reform bill. Specifically, these sections create a new "Frontline Health Providers Loan Repayment Program" to help recruit a variety of health care providers to underserved areas (including Iowa) and

improve patient access to care.

For more information on the Access to Frontline Care Act, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/koxuhe>

Public Health Insurance Option: Rep. Braley was one of the first House members to outline a specific plan-the CHOICE Act, HR 2668-for a public health insurance option to be included as part of a healthcare reform bill. A public health insurance option is included in the healthcare reform legislation introduced today.

For more information on the CHOICE Act, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/mp2lfk>